Amendments to the Claims:

In response to the Official Action and in accordance with 37 CFR 1.121(c), please enter the following rewritten claims.

Claims Showing Proposed Amendments

Claims 1-16 (canceled previously).

17. (*Currently amended*) A remote unitary module for controlling access to a plurality of video channels that are distributed over a communications conduit,

wherein the communications conduit has a head-end and at least one remote-end,

said remote unitary module being positioned along a remote-end of the communications conduit,

said remote unitary module being provided with a changeable list of permitted video channel numbers, said changeable list containing at least one permitted video channel number therein,

said remote unitary module having a unique identifier associated therewith, and,

wherein is provided an NTSC standard video signal transmitted over said communications conduit, said standard video signal containing at least one overscan scan line wherein at least a portion of said changeable list of permitted video channels has been embedded therein,

said remote unitary module, comprising:

(a) a first tuner in electronic communication with said communications conduit, said first tuner receiving a particular video channel as input and providing a baseband video signal as output, said particular video channel being associated with a particular video channel number;

(b) means for changing said first tuner to receive a different video channel, said different video channel having a different video channel number;

(c) a CPU in electronic communications with said first tuner, said CPU programmed to at least perform the steps of,

(c1) extracting from said at least one transmitted overscan scan lines said embedded module identifier,

(~~e1~~c2) extracting from said at least one transmitted scan line at least a portion of said embedded portion of said changeable list of permitted video channels,

(~~e2~~c3) sensing said different video channel number and determining whether said different video channel number is in said extracted changeable list of permitted video channel numbers, and,

(~~e3~~c4) if said embedded module identifier matches said remote unitary module identifier, prohibiting display of said different video channel if said different video channel is not in said extracted changeable list of permitted video channel numbers;

(d) computer RAM in electronic communication with said CPU, said RAM containing

at least one digital image stored therein; and,

(e) a video switch having at least a first video input, a second video input, and a video output,

wherein

(e1) said first video input receives said baseband video signal from said first tuner,

(e2) said second video input receives a baseband video representation of said digital image stored in said computer RAM, and,

(e3) said video output is switchable under control of said CPU between said baseband video signal from said first tuner and said baseband video representation of said digital image.

Claims 18-21 (Canceled).

22. *(Currently Amended)* A method of controlling access to a plurality of video channels that are distributed over a communications conduit, each of said video channels being associated with a video channel number, wherein is provided the remote unitary module of Claim 17, and,

wherein the communications conduit has a head-end and at least one remote-end,

wherein there is provided a plurality of said remote unitary modules positioned along a remote-end of said communications conduit, and,

wherein each of said plurality of remote unitary modules has a changeable list of permitted video channel numbers associated therewith,

comprising the steps of:

(a) assigning an individual security key code to each of said plurality of remote unitary modules;

(b) identifying at least one of said plurality of remote unitary module that is to receive a changed list of permitted video channel numbers and identifying an individual security key code assigned to each of said identified remote unitary modules;

(c) obtaining a standard video image from a digital or an analog source, said video image having a plurality of scan lines contained therein;

(d) obtaining a first and a second predetermined scan line of said video image, wherein said first and second predetermined scan lines are within an overscan portion of said video image;

~~(e) for each identified remote unitary module, impressing a value representative of its assigned identified individual security key code into said predetermined scan line, thereby creating a modified video image;~~

(e) for each of said identified remote unitary modules,

(e1) forming a binary representation of said identified remote individual security key code,

(e2) impressing said binary representation into said first predetermined scan line thereby creating a modified video image,

wherein each "1" in said binary representation is associated with a first video grey level and each "0" in said binary representation is associated with a second video grey level, thereby forming a sequence of said first and said second grey levels within said first predetermined scan line

associated with said binary representation of said identified remote unitary module;

~~(f) impressing values representative of said changed list of permitted video channel numbers into a second predetermined scan line, thereby creating a further modified video image;~~

(f) forming a binary representation of said changed list of permitted video channel numbers and impressing said binary representation of said changed list of permitted video channel numbers into said second predetermined scan line, thereby creating a further modified video image,

wherein each "1" in said binary representation of said changed list of permitted video channel numbers is associated with said first grey level and each "0" in said binary representation is associated with said second grey level, thereby forming a sequence of said first and said second grey levels within said second predetermined scan line associated with said binary representation of said changed list of permitted video channel numbers;

(g) broadcasting said further modified video image over said communications conduit;

(h) receiving said broadcast video image within at least one of said at least one remote unitary modules;

(i) within at least one of said at least one remote unitary modules wherein said broadcast video image is received,

(i1) determining a local security key code for said remote unitary module wherein said broadcast video image is received,

(i2) identifying said predetermined scan line,

(i3) extracting from said predetermined scan line any values representative of said assigned individual security keys impressed therein,

(i4) determining from any values extracted from said predetermined scan line at least one transmitted individual security key,

(i5) comparing each of said at least one transmitted security keys with said local individual security key,

(i6) if said local individual security key is equal to any one of said at least one transmitted keys, storing within said selected remote unitary module a numerical representation of said changed list of permitted video channel numbers, and,

(i7) performing steps (i1) through (i6) for at least one selected remote unitary module;

(j) monitoring said first tuner to detect whether the user has selected a different video channel number;

(k) determining whether said selected different video channel number is among said changed list of permitted video channel numbers;

(l) if said different video channel number is not among said changed list of permitted video channel numbers, displaying to the user an alternative video image for said different video channel; and,

(m) if said different channel number is among said changed list of permitted video channel numbers, displaying to the user said different video channel.

(~~l~~n) if said different video channel number is not among said changed list of permitted video channel numbers, displaying to the user an alternative video image for said different video channel; and,

(~~m~~o) if said different channel number is among said changed list of permitted video channel numbers, displaying to the user said different video channel.

Claims 23-27 (Canceled)

28. *(Previously presented)* A method of controlling access to a plurality of video channels that are distributed over a communications conduit according to Claim **22**, wherein said predetermined scan line is a first scan line of said video image.

29. *(Previously presented)* A method of controlling access to a plurality of video channels that are distributed over a communications conduit according to Claim **22**, wherein said predetermined scan line is a non-visible scan line of said video image.

30. (*Currently Amended*) A remote unitary module for controlling access by a user to a plurality of video channels that are distributed over a communications conduit,

wherein said remote unitary module is provided with a changeable list of permitted video channel numbers, each of said permitted channel numbers being associated with one of said plurality of video channels,

wherein is provided a standard NTSC video signal transmitted over said communications conduit, said video signal containing at least one scan line within an overscan portion of said video signal wherein at least a portion of a representation of a revised list of permitted video channels is embedded as a first two-level video signal,

wherein said video signal contains at least one scan line within said overscan portion of said video signal wherein a representation of a security key is embedded as a second two-level video signal, and,

wherein said remote unitary module has a module security key associated therewith,

said remote unitary module, comprising:

(a) a first video tuner in electronic communication with said communications conduit, said first tuner being configurable to accept at least two of said plurality of video channels as input, wherein,

(a1) said first video tuner is switchable to receive a selected one of said at least two video channels, said selected video channel having a corresponding selected video channel number,

(a2) said first video tuner transmits a first tuner video signal as output, said first tuner video signal being representative of said selected video channel;

(b) a CPU in electronic communication with said first video tuner, said CPU being programmed to perform at least the steps of:

(b1) examining said video signal to obtain said representation of said ~~determine said transmitted~~ security key from said first two-level video signal,

(b2) examining said video signal to obtain said representation of ~~determine~~ said revised list of permitted video channels from said second two-level video signal,

(b3) comparing said transmitted security key with said module security key,

(b4) if said transmitted security does not match said module security key, responding according to said selected video channel to determine whether said selected video channel number is in said provided changeable list of permitted video channel numbers, and,

(b5) if said transmitted security does match said module security key,

(1) responding according to said selected video channel to determine whether said selected video channel number is in said revised list of permitted video channel numbers, and,

(2) storing said revised list of permitted video channel numbers in place of said provided permitted video channel numbers;

(c) computer RAM in electronic communication with said CPU, said RAM containing at least one digital image stored therein;

(d) a video controller in electronic communication with said CPU and said RAM, said video controller having a video controller output for transmitting a controller

video signal representative of at least one of said at least one digital images stored in said RAM;

(e) a video switch having at least a first video switch input, a second switch video input, and a video switch output,

wherein

(e1) said first video switch input receives said first tuner video signal from said first video tuner,

(e2) said second video switch input receives said controller video signal from said video controller output,

(e3) said video switch output is switchable under control of said CPU between said first tuner video signal and said controller video signal, depending on whether said selected video channel is a permitted video channel.

31. *(Previously presented)* A remote unitary module for controlling access by a user to a plurality of video channels according to Claim **30**, wherein said first video tuner is switchable by the user to receive a selected one of said at least two video channels.

32. *(Previously presented)* A remote unitary module for controlling access by a user to a plurality of video channels according to Claim **30**, wherein said computer RAM contains a plurality of digital images stored therein, and wherein said video controller successively displays selected ones of said plurality of digital images under control of said CPU.

33. *(Previously presented)* A remote unitary module for controlling access by a user to a plurality of video channels according to Claim 30, wherein said first tuner video signal is a baseband signal and said controller video signal is a baseband signal.

34. *(Previously presented)* A remote unitary module for controlling access by a user to a plurality of video channels according to Claim 30, wherein said controller video signal is generated at a same frequency as said output from said first video tuner.

35. *(Previously presented)* A remote unitary module for controlling access by a user to a plurality of video channels according to Claim 30, further comprising:

(f) a video display device positionable to be in electronic communication with said video switch output, said video display device for displaying in visually perceptible form a video signal from said output of said video switch.

36. *(Previously presented)* A remote unitary module for controlling access by a user to a plurality of video channels according to Claim 30, further comprising:

(f) a video modulator in electronic communication with said video switch output, said video modulator modulating a video signal from said output of said video switch to a predetermined video channel.

37. (*Previously presented*) A method of controlling access to a plurality of video channels that are broadcast over a communications conduit, each of said video channels being

associated with a video channel number, and wherein is provided at least one remote unitary module as in Claim 30 which is in electronic communication with said communications conduit and with said plurality of video channels, each of said at least one remote unitary modules having a security code associated therewith, comprising the steps of:

(a) identifying at least one of said at least one remote unitary module that is to receive a revised list of permitted video channel numbers;

(b) identifying a particular security key code assigned to each of said identified remote unitary modules;

(c) obtaining a video image from a digital or an analog source, said video image having a plurality of scan lines contained therein;

(d) selecting a first scan line of said video image;

(e) storing a value representative of each of said identified particular security key codes into said first scan line, thereby creating a modified video image;

(f) selecting a second scan line of said video image;

(f) storing values representative of said revised list of permitted video channel numbers into said second predetermined scan line, thereby creating a further modified video image;

(h) broadcasting said further modified video image as a standard video signal over said communications conduit;

(i) receiving said broadcast video image within a particular remote unitary module, said particular remote unitary module having a particular security key associated therewith;

(j) within said particular remote unitary module,

(j1) extracting from said first scan line at least one of said values representative of said assigned individual security keys stored therein,

(j2) determining from any of said extracted values representative of said assigned individual security keys at least one of said identified security keys,

(j3) comparing any of said determined identified security keys with said particular security key of said particular remote unitary module,

(j4) if said particular security key matches any of said determined identified security keys, storing within said particular remote unitary module a numerical representation of said revised list of permitted video channel numbers,

(j5) monitoring said first tuner within said particular remote unitary module to detect when the user has selected a video channel number,

(j6) determining whether said selected video channel number is among said revised list of permitted video channel numbers,

(j7) if said selected video channel number is among said revised list of permitted video channel numbers, displaying to the user said selected video channel, and,

(j8) if said selected video channel number is not among said revised list of permitted video channel numbers, displaying to the user an alternative video image.

38. *(Previously presented)* A method according to Claim 37, wherein said first scan line and said second scan line are a same scan line.

39. *(Previously presented)* A method according to Claim 37, wherein said first scan line and said second scan line are both non-visible scan lines.

40. *(New)* A method of controlling access to a plurality of video channels that are distributed over a communications conduit according to Claim 22, wherein said first video grey level is a black video level and said second video gray level is a white video level.

41. *(New)* A remote unitary module for controlling access by a user to a plurality of video channels according to Claim 30, wherein said first two-level video signal and said second two-level video signal are both black and white video signals.